

**Minutes  
Board of Natural Resources**

Columbus Marriott  
Empire Mills Room  
800 Front Avenue  
Columbus, GA 31901

**September 26, 2018**

**Board Members**

Aaron McWhorter, Chairman  
Nancy Addison, Secretary – Via Conference Call  
William Bagwell – Via Conference Call  
Dwight Evans  
Joe Hatfield  
Duncan Johnson  
Bill Jones  
Ray Lambert  
Rob Leebern  
Mark Mobley  
Billy New  
Brother Stewart  
Miki Thomaston  
Dee Yancey

**Guests**

Mark Woodall, Sierra Club  
Brent Widener, Fort Benning Environmental Division  
Bill Hodges, Hodges Harbin Newberry & Tribble  
Mike Worley, Georgia Wildlife Federation  
Ronny Just, Georgia Power Company

**Staff**

Mark Williams, Commissioner  
Terry West  
Walter Rabon  
Kyle Pearson  
Wes Robinson  
Cathy Barnette  
Amber Carter  
Artica Gaston  
Jeff Cown  
Dave Crass  
Steve Friedman  
Rusty Garrison  
Doug Haymans  
Eddie Henderson  
Jeff Weaver  
Thomas Barnard  
Caleb Eubanks  
Greg Nelms  
Kim Piemme  
Scott Bardenwerper  
  
Richard Dunn, Director  
Jac Capp  
Karen Hays  
Chuck Mueller

The September 26, 2018 meeting of the Board of Natural Resources was called to order by Chairman Aaron McWhorter.

Chairman McWhorter called on the Public Focus speakers, Mr. George Steuber, Fort Benning Deputy Garrison Commander, and Mr. Steve Davis, Middle Chattahoochee Regional Water Planning Council.

Chairman McWhorter thanked Mr. Steuber and Mr. Davis.

Chairman McWhorter adjourned the Board meeting to go into Committee meetings.

The Board meeting was called to order by Chairman McWhorter.

A motion was made by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Yancey, and carried unanimously that the Board approve the minutes from the August 22, 2018 Board of Natural Resources meeting.

Chairman McWhorter called on Rick Dunn, Director of the Environmental Protection Division, for his report.

Director Dunn thanked Jeff Cown for his service at EPD, discussed Chuck Mueller's taking over as Chief of the Land Branch, and updated the Board on the water metering program.

Chairman McWhorter called on Mark Williams, Commissioner of the DNR, to deliver his report.

Commissioner Williams thanked Cathy Barnette and Rob Leebern along with other local partners for the reception in Columbus the night before the Board meeting.

Commissioner Williams congratulated Jeff Cown and Katy Sharp on their new roles as Director of the Parks, Recreation, and Historic Sites Division and Executive Director of the Georgia Natural Resources Foundation, respectively.

Commissioner Williams commented on the recent ribbon-cutting of the Idlewilde Event Center at Indian Springs State Park. Commissioner Williams described the features of the new event center and thanked the local partners that worked with DNR on making the project a reality.

Commissioner Williams congratulated Caleb Eubanks, Greg Nelms, and Kim Piemme of the Game Management team for winning awards from the Georgia Wildlife Federation, including Game Management Technician of the Year, Game Management Biologist of the Year, and Game Management Employee of the Year, respectively.

Commissioner Williams discussed the upcoming CoastFest and Weekend for Wildlife Events.

Commissioner Williams called on Doug Haymans, Director of the Coastal Resources Division, for his report.

Director Haymans discussed CoastFest 2018, which will occur on Saturday, October 6. He mentioned the new location for this year's event and discussed the opportunities and challenges that are present. Director Haymans stated he was optimistic for the event and looked forward to seeing everyone down at the Coast.

Commissioner Williams called on Dr. Dave Crass, Director of the Historic Preservation Division, for his report.

Dr. Crass discussed the Certified Local Government (CLG) Program, a partnership between local governments, HPD, and the National Park Service. Dr. Crass went on to state the opportunities for technical assistance in historic preservation that were available through this program in the form of training sessions, information material, statewide meetings, workshops, and conferences. Dr. Crass then discussed the federal and state requirements for participation in the program and the roles of local government ordinances. Dr. Crass finished by providing a case study of the program, mentioning the success of the Tybee Post Theatre through the CLG grants it received and stating that it is now an important community landmark.

Commissioner Williams called on Jeff Cown, Director of the Parks, Recreation, and Historic Sites Division, for his report.

Director Cown discussed the Parks Division's efforts accepting evacuees during Hurricane Florence and talked about how State Parks are always prepared to work with disaster response and ensure no one seeking help is turned away.

Director Cown mentioned the Wormsloe 10K race and discussed the recent Idlewilde Event Center ribbon-cutting at Indian Springs State Park.

Director Cown discussed PRHSD's 2018 Leaf Watch, a program encouraging Georgia residents and visitors to explore State Parks during the fall. He mentioned the list of "Top 10 State Parks for Fall Colors", available on the Parks Division website.

Commissioner Williams called on Rusty Garrison, Director of the Wildlife Resources Division, for his report.

Director Garrison commented on the ongoing hunting season, with archery season currently being opened. He mentioned the statistics from the first few weeks of the season and said he is looking forward to hearing everyone's hunting stories in the weeks and months ahead.

Director Garrison discussed the recent National hunting and Fishing Day, held on September 22, 2018. He talked about the great opportunity that it was for hunters and anglers of all ages and skill levels and mentioned the benefit that it held for the Department as a whole.

Director Garrison commented on the completion of the Richmond Hill Hatchery Complex, which serves as the statewide striped bass production facility and manages restoration of the Savannah River. He went on to state that the new hatchery accomplishes many great advances in Georgia's fisheries, including increased spawning and egg incubation capacity, better energy efficiencies, greater water recirculation capabilities, and easier loading of fish for release all across the state.

Chairman McWhorter called on Ray Lambert, Chairman of the Environmental Protection Committee.

A motion was made by Mr. Lambert, seconded by Mr. Johnson and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to approve the proposed amendments to the Rules for Air Quality Control, Chapter 391-3-1, Pertaining to Open Burning. (Proposed Amendments attached hereto and made a part thereof)

Chairman McWhorter called on Bill Jones, Vice Chairman of the Land Committee.

A motion was made by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Stewart, and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval to enter into a lease agreement with Coffee County to lease Barr's Bluff Boat Ramp, 0.48± acres, as presented (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof).

A motion was made by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Evans, and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval to enter into a lease agreement with Four-S Timberlands L.P. to lease Barr's Bluff Boat Ramp's parking area, 2.38± acres, Coffee County, as presented (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof).

Chairman McWhorter commented that the next meeting of the Board of Natural Resources will be held in Atlanta on October 24, 2018.

Chairman McWhorter commented that the January 2019 meeting of the Board of Natural Resources will be held in Atlanta on January 16, 2019.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

ATTEST:

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Aaron McWhorter, Chairman

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Nancy A. Addison, Secretary